



August 16, 2004

Providence man is convicted of drug-trafficking and firearms offenses

A federal jury has found **Edgar Medina**, of Providence, guilty of trafficking in crack cocaine, heroin, and marijuana and of a related firearms offense. Providence Police arrested Medina in February after a neighbor complained that he had smashed in her car window. Officers subsequently found drugs and a handgun in a shoe box in an apartment where Medina had been arrested.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the guilty verdict, which the jury returned on August 13 in U.S. District Court, Providence. Medina, 19, of 786 River Avenue, is detained at the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institutions in Cranston, pending sentencing, which is scheduled for November 5. He also faces state charges.

During the trial, Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch presented evidence that, on February 8, Officers Franciso Furtado and Gregory DeCastro went to 114 Waverly Street in response to a complaint about malicious damage. A woman there said that Medina had smashed the windshield of her car with a silver handgun and had then gone to the second floor of 114 Waverly Street.

Tammy Foster, who lives in that apartment, let police in and they arrested Medina. After his arrest, Medina said that the gun and drugs weren't his, even though the officers were not at the time aware of any drugs or guns. After receiving permission from Foster to search

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the apartment, they found under a bed a shoe box containing a loaded pistol and what later tested to be 102 grams of crack cocaine plus quantities of heroin and marijuana. The box also contained drug-trafficking material and personal papers bearing Medina's name.

During the trial, Medina's attorney attempted to persuade the jury that the box belonged not to Medina, but to Foster. However, the jury found Medina guilty of all four charges that were brought in an April indictment: possession with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine, possession with intent to distribute heroin and marijuana, and possessing a firearm in connection with a drug-trafficking offense.

The statutory maximum penalties for the offenses are: possessing with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine – life imprisonment and a \$4,000,000 fine; possessing with intent to distribute heroin – 20 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine; possessing with intent to distribute marijuana – five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine; possessing a firearm in connection with a drug-trafficking offense – a minimum of five years imprisonment, consecutive to other sentences imposed, and a maximum of life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Dambruch is prosecuting it.

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